

1 **Amendments to the Specification:**

2 Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 1 of page 3 and ending on line 6 of
3 page 3 with the following paragraph:

4
5 -- Another implementation includes a system for managing objects that represent
6 users in an instant messaging conversation, wherein the system includes a data object
7 representing a user, the data object having an object name including a location identifier
8 and a hash value, ~~the object name allowing~~, and an object store operable to retrieve the
9 data object from a location identified by the location identifier and store the data object in
10 a local cache based on the hash value. --

11 Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 2 of page 31 and ending on line 11
12 of page 31 with the following paragraph:

14
15 -- A method includes receiving a name associated with a user on a remote
16 computer, the name including location data and a hash value uniquely associated with a
17 data object representing the user and retrieving the data object from one of a local cache
18 based on the hash value or a location identified by the location data. A system for
19 managing objects representing users in an instant messaging conversation includes a data
20 object representing a user, the data object having an object name including a location
21 identifier and a hash value, ~~the object name allowing~~, and an object store operable to
22 retrieve the data object from a location identified by the location identifier and store the
23 data object in a local cache based on the hash value.--

1 **Amendments to the Claims:**

2 1. (Original) A method for communicating object data comprising:
3 generating a hash value based on object data representing a user of a local
4 computer;
5 storing the object data at a storage location; and
6 returning an object name having the hash value and a location identifier
7 identifying the storage location, the object name enabling a user of a remote computer to
8 access the object data.

10 2. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising:

11 receiving a request for the object data, the request including the object name; and
12 retrieving the object data from a local cache based on the hash value.

15 3. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising:

16 receiving a request for the object data, the request including the object name; and
17 in response to receiving the request, retrieving the object data from the location

18 using the location identifier.

21 4. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising:

22 receiving a request for the object data, the request including the object name; and
23 determining whether the requested object data is in a local cache based on the
24 hash value; and

1 if the requested object data is in the local cache, retrieving the object data from the
2 local cache,

3 otherwise, retrieving the requested object data from the location identified by the
4 location identifier.

5

6 5. (Original) A method as recited in claim 4 wherein the retrieving the requested
7 object data from the location identified by the location identifier comprises:

8 retrieving the requested object data from network storage.

9

10 6. (Original) A method as recited in claim 4 wherein the retrieving the requested
11 object data from the location identified by the location identifier comprises:

12 retrieving the requested object data from a local file system.

13

14 7. (Original) A method as recited in claim 4 wherein the retrieving the requested
15 object data from the location identified by the location identifier comprises:

16 retrieving the requested object data from a remote file system.

17

18 8. (Original) A method as recited in claim 7 wherein the retrieving the requested
19 object data from a remote file system comprises:

20 accessing the remote file system via a peer-to-peer connection.

21

22

23 9. (Original) A method as recited in claim 7 wherein the retrieving the requested
24 object data from a remote file system comprises:

25

1 accessing the remote file system via a connection through a switchboard server.

2
3 10. (Original) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-
4 executable instructions for performing a method comprising:

5 receiving a name associated with a user on a remote computer, the name including
6 location data and a hash value uniquely associated with a data object representing the
7 user; and

8 retrieving the data object from one of a local cache based on the hash value or a
9 location identified by the location data.

10
11 11. (Original) A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 10 wherein the
12 retrieving the data object from one of a local cache based on the hash value or a location
13 identified by the location data comprises:

14 determining whether the data object is in a local cache based on the hash value;
15 and

16 if the data object is in the local cache, retrieving the data object from the local
17 cache;

18 otherwise, retrieving the data object from the location identified by the location
19 data.

20
21 22. (Original) A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 11 wherein the
22 retrieving the data object from the location identified by the location data comprises
23 retrieving the data object from a remote file system.

1 13. (Original) A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 11 wherein the
2 retrieving the data object from the location identified by the location data comprises
3 retrieving the data object from a local file system.
4

5

6 14. (Original) A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 11 wherein the
7 retrieving the data object from the location identified by the location data comprises
8 retrieving the data object from a network storage.
9

10 15. (Original) A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 11 wherein the
11 retrieving the data object from the location identified by the location data comprises
12 accessing a remote computer via a peer-to-peer connection.
13

14

15 16. (Currently Amended) A system for managing objects representing users in an
16 instant messaging conversation, the system comprising:

17 a data object representing a user, the data object having an object name including
18 a location identifier and a hash value, ~~the object name allowing~~; and
19 an object store operable to retrieve the data object from a location identified by
20 the location identifier and store the data object in a local cache based on the hash value.
21

22

23 17. (Original) A system as recited in claim 16 wherein the object name further
24 comprises a creator identifier identifying a creator of the data object.
25

1 18. (Original) A system as recited in claim 16 further comprising a transport
2 protocol stack enabling the object store to retrieve the data object from a remote storage
3 location over a peer-to-peer connection.

4

5 19. (Original) A system as recited in claim 16 wherein the data object further
6 comprise metadata descriptive of the data object.

7

8 20. (Original) A system as recited in claim 19 wherein the metadata comprises:
9 a friendly name field;
10 a type field indicating a type of data object; and
11 a hash value based on the metadata.

12

13 21. (Original) A system as recited in claim 16 wherein the location identifier
14 comprises a uniform resource locator (URL).

16

17 22. (Original) A system as recited in claim 16 wherein the location identifier
18 comprises a uniform resource identifier (URI).

25

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests entry of this preliminary amendment and prompt issuance of the subject application.

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Respectfully Submitted,

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